

This is a public comment for the WRIGHT  
petition (cc) DOCKET #96-128.

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012 7/6/12

Dear Chairman Benachowski

FCC Mail Room

High cost of prison calls  
have had a negative impact on my  
family and I. The cost is so much  
that after receiving a collect call most  
never accept again. Some that try and  
pay for the cost to maintain a relationship  
with a family member sometimes  
end up having their phone disconnected  
because the fees are too high to keep up  
with. Sometimes the only way for us  
to communicate with our family is  
through phone calls because of prison  
being so far away from home. Phone  
calls are an important resource to inmates  
and family to keep a healthy relationship.  
Thank you for your time.

Sincerely, J. Medina

J. MEDINA F17950

LAC 13-206

PO BOX 4610

LANCASTER CA 93539

by being locked up, what if you haven't  
got the line open + be able to call your  
mother or father + get your sister  
calls the prison to get you a message to  
please call mom because dad has passed  
away? You cannot ever get thru to com-  
fort your mother see!

Then another dog-gone thing that is  
completely irritating with all this is when you  
do finally have things set up and call, this  
recording says at first to your people that  
this is a ~~prison~~ inmate at ~~so~~ ~~so~~  
prison and do you want to accept the call.  
Well once they do accept obviously they know  
who they're talking too, but that dog-gone  
recording will come on and interrupt 3  
more different times within the 15  
minutes only to talk that you have!

this is absolutely unnecessary.

There has got to be a system and  
a way that is different than this  
... it would be to just let our family  
and friends accept direct calls from their  
own carriers without having to go thru  
a monopolized system that is put in place  
to inconvenience people and to make some  
corporation rich while it takes money from  
people who are suffering financially.

In respects - michael

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JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

7/9/12

WRIGHT PETITION (CC Docket # 96-128)

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

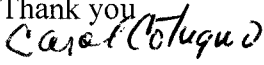
Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I hope this brief note finds you well.

I have received the "phone justice campaign" flyer and I too find the impact of the phone fees a hardship.

I'm a widow, working woman, and its difficult trying to make ends meet these days. One of the joys that I find is receiving calls from my loved one but they need to be cut short because of the phone fees.

Please consider reducing costs so that many people can reach your loved ones.

Thank you  
  
Carol Cotugno

TO: Chairman Julius Genachowski

From: (Inmate) Tamara Poynter #36707

Date: July 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012

RE: Prison Phone Justice

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Julius Genachowski,

First of all, "Thank you" and everyone concerned about this matter. — "Praise God, someone heard my prayer!"

I have only been here at CCA since May of 2011 and the phone prices are "ASTRONOMICAL" — "OUTRAGEOUS" Totally (uncalled for) — "abuse!!!"

"Who (in their right mind) thought that 40¢ a minute to an inmate who only makes 10¢ — 40¢ an hour was feasible"

"For the love of God" . . .

Sir, I was fortunate enough to be one of the 40 (overcrowded) women who (in October of 2011) were shipped to New Mexico Western Correctional Facility (a mens facility — ~~a~~ a State-run mens facility. —

"Here's the deal", . . . The same 'Securus Correctional Billing Service' a division of Securus Technologies and T-Netix' used at CCA, is also used at NMWCF. BUT, for \$6.78 an inmate at NMWCF can purchase a phone card with "10", 20 minute phone calls compared to (the same Securus ~~Co.~~ Co.) CCA where the phone calls are ALL 40¢ a minute (plus Tax . . . ?) Please help us ASAP

Cordially, Tamara Poynter

July 4, 2012  
This is a public comment for the Wright Petition  
(CC Docket # 96-128)

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

Dear Chairman Derachowski;

FCC Mail Room

I am writing this letter in regards to the high cost of phone services for incarcerated inmates. It is truly a hardship for my family to pay such rates, that only seem to be increasing.

Many times I have been unable to use the phone. Sometimes for months, because it's too expensive for my family to keep putting money on my phone account. This keeps me from being able to communicate with my children, my husband, my mother. I've missed communication on important dates, holiday birthdays, as well as being unaware of critical moments such as emergencies, illnesses, hospitalizations even deaths. Not only is this a hardship on myself; but for my family as well.

Too often there are problems with the telephones in the prison, as well as the phone company itself. I have been disconnected many times, only minutes after the phone call was accepted. Yet the price of a full 30 minute call was deducted from the balance. Just recently this happened, and I was disconnected 4 times while speaking to my Mother, after only being on the phone, 5-7 minutes. Again, 4 full price calls were deducted from the available balance. This is unfair, and very, very expensive to be happening.

My husband pays for phone service to be called to his cell phone. A 30 minute call costs him about \$20 per call! The rates are outrageous! In order for me to call, he has to choose between paying for phone service, or paying a bill. Paying for phone service, or sending money for things I need here. Paying for phone service, or putting gas in his truck.

These may seem like logical decisions.. that you would take care of necessities at home, but when there are children involved, sick parents, and issues that demand communication, these choices become a real burden.

My story is just one of many.. Thousands!, who are all subject to the same burdens. Many, who are worse off than myself. Something definitely must be done about the ridiculous rates for phone services.

Sincerely,

Janet S. Thompson  
N97043

Incarcerated at:

Lincoln Correctional Center  
P.O. Box 549  
Lincoln, Illinois  
62656

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear chairman Genachowski,

I write in hopes of voicing my discontent with Pennsylvania's state prison, "phone call fee" price gouging. It's impact can be felt by more then just "us" inmates. Sure it causes us to call our loved ones less. But it also puts un-do stress and tension on our loved ones. what I mean by that is this. My father lives with his girlfriend of ten years. she is not my biological mother. My father wants me to call often, which I do. Well this cause's the two of them to argue and fight about the phone bill. My Dad tells me, "call anyway, I want to talk to you. All the while, He has to fight with his significant other all because the prisons want an exorbitant kick back. Inmates generally only earn pennies a hour for work. If anything, inmates calls should be less expensive then the public. Not ten to a hundred times more expensive. It hurts! Not just "us inmates" but also the people in our lives.

Sincerely,

*Jared Henkel*

Jared Henkel FR-1982  
175 Progress Drive  
Waynesburg, PA 15370

THIS IS A PUBLIC COMMENT FOR THE  
WRIT~~HT~~ PETITION (CC DOCKET #96-128)

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

07-04-2012

SIR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI

I LEARNED OF THIS CAMPAIGN WHEN A FELLOW INMATE  
HANTED ME THIS COPY OF PRISON LEGAL NEWS. THE VERY  
HIGH COST OF PRISON PHONE CALLS AFFECTS US ALL.  
AT THE VERY TIME IN OUR LIVES (INMATES) WHEN  
WE NEED TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH OUR LOVED ONES,  
HIGH PHONE COSTS MAKE IT HARDER, NOT EASIER.  
INMATES ARE ALREADY A FINANCIAL BURDEN ON  
THEIR FAMILIES, AND YET MOST OF US RELY ON MONEY  
SENT IN FROM OUR FAMILIES THAT ALLOW US TO CALL.  
WHAT IS IRONIC IS THAT THERE ARE COMPANIES THAT  
CAN SELL US LONG DISTANCE AND MAKE A TIDY  
PROFIT WHILE STILL UNDERCUTTING THE BUREAU  
OF PRISONS PROFIT. HOW MUCH DOES THE B.O.P. MAKE  
ON A 15 MINUTE PHONE CALL? INMATES WHO ARE  
FORTUNATE ENOUGH TO BE LOCALLY SITUATED ARE  
CHARGED \$ .06 A MINUTE TO SPEAK TO A LOVED ONE.  
I AM CHARGED \$ .27 FOR THE SAME PRIVILEGE.  
COUNTY JAILS ARE MUCH WORSE. FAMILIES ARE FORCED TO  
BUY EXPENSIVE BLOCKS OF MINUTES FOR THE USE  
OF THE PHONE. THIS AMOUNTS TO NOTHING MORE THAN  
PREYING ON THOSE LESS PRIVILEGED. WITH TODAY'S  
ELECTRONICS, AND HUMANLESS SWITCHBOARDS - ALL CALLS  
SHOULD BE COMPETATIVE WITH THE FREE WORLD  
THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME,  
Wes Hamilton



Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

July 9, 2012

Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
445 12th Street  
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Public comment for Wright petition #96-128

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I wanted to offer my position, as an incarcerated individual, on the fleecing of inmates and their families insofar as collect, and even "prepaid", phone rates for prisoner's are concerned.

I have been incarcerated since 2004. Since then, I have lost contact with the majority of my family and friends due to the high cost of making phone calls from prison. Allow me to offer some of my personal experiences.

At the county jail, we paid a guard money to have a cellular phone smuggled in. We chipped in, rounded up the funds, and a willing officer, and paid \$300.00 for him to bring in the phone. Why? Because it was literally **cheaper** to pay him so that we could stay in touch with family and friends.

Similar occurrences happen in the state system as well. It's important to note that, although illegal in prison, inmates are willing to take such a gamble in order to stay in touch with loved ones. In fact, inmates in prison appear motivated to engage in **other** illegal activity for the sole purpose of being able to afford an illegal cellular phone.

Prison officials often use the excuse, as opposed to a legitimate reason, why the rates are so high. For example, they state that they must use special technology in order to be able to monitor the phone calls. And, admittedly, the phone system does have features that will cause for the call to disconnect if the parties utilize "3-way" calling features.

What seems silly in this analysis, however, is the fact that inmates at SCI Graterford, calling to Philadelphia, pay a mere \$1.60 for 15 minutes using the aforementioned "technology". Such a fee is acceptable, almost reasonable. I am from the Pittsburgh area, however, and it cost's me (or my family) well over \$5.00 to make that same phone call. Knowing that most phone companies offer free long distance these days makes me believe that there **is a way** to allow for less expensive phone calls.

Also, most attorney's refuse to accept collect calls. I call mine prepaid and at my expense. I have spent well over \$300.00 calling my public defender over the course of the last year. I have been able to monitor the status of my appeal(s) and offer my input in the same. I suspect I shall be afforded relief from the court in the near future. What is troubling to me is that there are many guys in here who can't afford to call their attorney. What's the result? They don't effectively communicate with them, and their appeal struggles, or fails altogether. If not for the exorbitant phone rates, prisoners would be able to better assist in their appeals, or even in their defenses pre-trial.


There are more things the state can make money on the inmates and their families if they choose to do this. They could charge us more money for things like iPods, small hand-held video games or even token operated video games if they want to drum up revenue. But **forcing** inmates and their families is harmful to the "rehabilitation" process.

The Pennsylvania Department of Corrections "Mission Statement" boasts of it's attempts to rehabilitate the inmate by allowing for him, in part, to maintain family ties in order to allow the inmate structure of a family environment upon their release that they may rely upon. I haven't spoken to my **Mother** in years. I call my Father on Christmas Day only and he passes the phone around to about 15 relatives so we can exchange pleasantries and, supposedly, to maintain family ties. The Department's "Mission Statement" is in discord with the actions insofar as phone rates are concerned.

We have inmates willing to smuggle/sell drugs in order to generate the revenue needed to buy a cellular phone. We have those same inmates willing to do the same in order to be able to afford prepaid phone time. Perhaps this is part of the Department's "Mission" as well. Well, it is. Maintaining family ties for a successful reintegration.

\$1.60 for 15 minutes? That's fair. If the Department was to instill in it's prisoner's the value of being fair with other's, as opposed to getting over on the same, they should consider practicing what they preach. I hope this offers you some insight into this matter. If you have any additional questions or concerns, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

  
Eric M. Miskovitch  
#DA-5989  
P.O. Box 244  
Graterford, PA 19426-0244

TO: CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
FROM: ROBERT PEZZECA #DX1148  
SCI HUNTINGDON  
1100 PIKE ST, HUNTINGDON, PA 16654-1112

Received & Inspected  
JULY 8, 2012

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

DEAR CHAIRMAN GENACHOWSKI,

I AM A STATE PRISONER IN PA AND I AM WRITING TO TELL YOU ABOUT OUR HIGH COST FOR PHONE CALLS. I AM SERVING A LIFE SENTENCE AND MY MOTHER HAS CANCER RIGHT NOW AND I WOULD LOVE TO BE ABLE TO CALL HER EVERY DAY TO CHECK ON HER BUT HERE, DUE TO KICKBACKS AND PRICE GOUGING FROM GLOBAL TEL LINK, WE PAY \$5+ FOR A 15 MINUTE PHONE CALL. IF I WANT TO CALL ANY OF MY FAMILY OUT OF STATE, IT WILL COST ME DOUBLE THAT. WE CAN PRE-PAY FOR PHONE CALLS BUT IT DOES NOT MAKE THEM ANY CHEAPER. I ALSO LIKE TO CALL MY FAMILY IN ITALY A FEW TIMES A YEAR BUT FOR THE COST, IT IS NOT AFFORDABLE. RECENTLY MANY PRISONERS HAVE BEGUN USING INTERNET BASED PHONE SERVICES IN ORDER TO MAKE CHEAPER CALLS AND ONCE THE DEPT. OF CORRECTIONS AND GLOBAL TEL LINK FOUND OUT, THE D.O.C. MADE A NEW POLICY THAT STATED WE CAN NO LONGER USE INTERNET PHONE SERVICES THAT ARE PRIMARILY USED FOR INMATES. THEY FOUND OUT THAT THEY WERE LOSING MILLION OF DOLLARS IN PROFITS SO THEY MADE THIS NEW POLICY IN APRIL OF THIS YEAR. WITH THIS PHONE SERVICE, I USED TO PAY 5¢ PER MINUTE. NOW SINCE THEY HAVE STOPPED US FORM USING THE INTERNET SERVICES, I NOW PAY ALMOST 30¢ PER MINUTE. I CAN BARELY AFFORD TO CALL MY MOTHER ANYMORE LET ALONE MY CHILDREN AND OTHER RELATIVES. FOR 1 HOUR ON THE PHONE WITH MY MOM, 4 CALLS, 15 MINUTES IN LENGTH, IT COSTS OVER 20\$. SOMETHING HAS TO BE DONE. THE PHONE COMPANIES AND D.O.C. ARE MAKING MILLIONS IN PROFIT AND NO ONE IS HELPING US. I'M NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO SUFFERS. OUR FAMILIES SEND US THE MONEY TO PAY FOR THESE CALLS. THIS IS PUTTING A HUGE FINANCIAL STRUGGLE ON ALL OF US. I HOPE THAT YOU WILL CREATE A LAW THAT ENDS THE PROFITEERING LIKE A FEW OTHER STATES HAVE ALREADY DONE. THIS WOULD MAKE IT EASIER FOR ALL PRISONERS TO STAY IN TOUCH WITH OUR FAMILIES. I HAVE SPENT EVERY DIME CALLING MY MOM. I DON'T EVEN HAVE THE EXTRA MONEY TO CALL MY 14 YEAR OLD DAUGHTER. PLEASE HELP US. THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR YOUR HELP AND TIME.

SINCERELY,

ROBERT PEZZECA



This is A Public Comment For the  
WRIGHT petition (CC Docket # 96-128)

Received & Inspected

JUL 16 2012

FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Genachowski,

I AM An Inmate  
at the STATE Correctional Institution at Fayette,  
Here in Fayette County Pennsylvania. I am  
writing in regards To The High Cost of phone  
Calls from the Pennsylvania Prison System.

MR. Genachowski, I am from the STATE of New York.  
My Family is From New York. A single Phone Call  
from Any institution out here in PA. Back home  
Costs me \$10.<sup>00</sup> or more for A single 15 minute call.  
In the County, Lackawanna Co., Scranton PA. I have  
experienced spending About close to \$20.<sup>00</sup> for A single  
15 min. Call. And Scranton PA. is only an hour and  
A HALF drive to New York City. Due to the high Costs  
of These Calls, I am only able to Call home maybe  
Two or Three Times A year. Making my Relationship  
with My Two Sons Almost impossible. These Same  
Rates Force me to have to decide between Hygiene  
for the Month or A Quick Hello. to my Loved Ones.  
How Could A person go from "Free Long Distance" to  
\$10.<sup>00</sup> Long Distance just because of Incarceration?  
These phone Company's out here which Run our  
Institutions Phone System will Not Allow Collect Calls  
unless the person you are calling Pre pays for  
The Call. This is NOT A Collect Call, But A pre paid

②

Call, Is it Not? Then these ~~Cost~~ just the Same as if I paid for A phone card/prepaid Call while here in the institution. The High Cost of these Calls Leave me with No Choice But to Contact my Loved ones through Mail, And I'm Sure that you Yourself Can Attest to There being Nothing like A Good Conversation and An Immediate Response from your loved one AS opposed to having to wait 3 to 6 days for A Response through the mail. Please take this into Consideration. The High Rates Are too much to Afford and inmates only make 19¢ starting an hour, for four hours a day. If you do the Math that's about 1 phone call a Month for me. Thank you for your Time.

Sincerely,



x MR. ROBERT GOODINE

# FPO323

Box 9999

LaBelle, PA. 15450-0999

(SCI - Fayette)

Received & Inspected

MAR 16 2012

FCC Mail Room 7/9/12

To: Chairman Julius Genachowski  
Federal Communications Commission  
Public Comments  
445-12th St. N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

From: Rosetta Jones #42635-001  
SPF-Hazleton  
P.O. Box 3006  
Bruceeton Mills, WV. 26525

RE: Input on the Prison Phone Justice Campaign

Dear Sir or Madam:  
I am writing about the impact the high costs of prison phone calls have had on me and my family. The last 2 yrs. I have been incarcerated at the Secure Female Facility, in Hazleton, WV. I am three hrs. away from home. The calls are clocked at 3.45 per 15 minutes, which is not affordable to many of us, because of the limited amount of jobs here. Please help in any way you can with lowering the costs.

This is a public comment for the Wright Petition CCC Docket #96-128. Thank you so very much, for your time and attention, in this matter.

Respectfully yours,  
Rosetta Jones

by being locked up. What if you haven't  
got the line open + be able to call your  
mother or father or get your sister  
call the prison to get you a message to  
please call mom because dad has passed  
away? You cannot even get thru to com-  
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Then another dog-gone thing that is  
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this is a call from an inmate at so & so  
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Well once they do accept obviously they know  
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This is absolutely unnecessary.

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In respects - Michael